

House Resolution 37

By: Representatives Tanner of the 9th, England of the 116th, Prince of the 127th, Harrell of the 106th, and Smith of the 133rd

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Creating the Georgia Commission on Freight and Logistics; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the current and future economic health of Georgia relies on a thriving and
- 3 productive freight industry; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Georgia needs a comprehensive, strategic business plan to develop state-wide
- 5 freight and logistics infrastructure in order for this state to remain economically competitive;
- 6 and
- 7 WHEREAS, it is important to study and assess the needs for and means of providing for a
- 8 system of freight and logistics investment projects and priorities in this state; and
- 9 WHEREAS, study is needed to determine the best course of action with regard to funding
- 10 and policy development relating to freight and logistics to ensure that action taken over the
- 11 next several years will result in the growth and support of this important industry; and
- 12 WHEREAS, it is important that such study further emphasize creating efficiency and
- 13 coordination among providers of freight and logistics and offer solutions to improve mobility
- 14 across this state; and
- 15 WHEREAS, such study may analyze the benefits of developing alternative freight routes as
- 16 a means of improving regional transportation and transportation throughout this state; and
- 17 WHEREAS, subject to availability of funds from the budget of the Senate and the House of
- 18 Representatives, such study may include a contract for the provision of private consulting
- 19 and any other services deemed necessary for purposes of addressing the areas identified in
- 20 this resolution; and

21 WHEREAS, any professionals retained to assist in analysis or consultation pursuant to this
22 resolution shall be professionals in freight and logistics analysis, with global or national
23 prominence in the following areas:

- 24 (1) Experience working with multiple freight and logistics providers;
- 25 (2) Experience delivering freight and logistics strategy for multijurisdictional or
26 state-wide entities;
- 27 (3) Strong financial consulting practices that have applicability to multiple funding or
28 financial approaches for freight and logistics;
- 29 (4) Approaches to promoting economic development; and
- 30 (5) Demonstrated knowledge and proven experience in strategic development.

31 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

32 (1) **Creation of joint commission.** There is created the Georgia Commission on Freight
33 and Logistics.

34 (2) **Members and officers.** The commission shall consist of the following members:

35 (A) Three members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, including
36 the chairperson of the Senate Transportation Committee;

37 (B) Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
38 House of Representatives, including the chairperson of the House Committee on
39 Transportation;

40 (C) Two members appointed by the President of the Senate who represent entities
41 which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the operations of a
42 major airport hub;

43 (D) Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives who
44 represent entities which provide freight and logistics services or possess expertise in the
45 operations of a major airport hub;

46 (E) Four members who each serve as either a mayor or county commissioner, with two
47 appointed by the President of the Senate and two appointed by the Speaker of the House
48 of Representatives;

49 (F) The commissioner of transportation, ex officio; and

50 (G) The executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority, ex officio.

51 The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate shall each
52 select a member to serve as cochairpersons of the commission.

53 (3) **Powers and duties.** The commission shall undertake a study of the conditions,
54 needs, issues, and problems mentioned above or related thereto and recommend any
55 action or legislation which the commission deems necessary or appropriate.

56 (4) **Meetings.** The cochairpersons shall call all meetings of the commission. The
57 commission may conduct such meetings at such places and at such times as it may deem
58 necessary or convenient to enable it to exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform
59 its duties, and accomplish the objectives and purposes of this resolution.

60 (5) **Allowances, expenses, and funding.**

61 (A) The legislative members of the commission shall receive the allowances provided
62 for in Code Section 28-1-8 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated.

63 (B) Members of the commission who are state officials, other than legislative
64 members, or state employees shall receive no compensation for their services on the
65 commission, but they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred by them in the
66 performance of their duties as members of the commission in the same manner as they
67 are reimbursed for expenses in their capacities as state officials or employees.

68 (C) Members of the commission who are not legislators, state officials, or state
69 employees shall receive a daily expense allowance in an amount the same as that
70 specified in subsection (b) of Code Section 45-7-21 of the Official Code of Georgia
71 Annotated, as well as the mileage or transportation allowance authorized for state
72 employees.

73 (D) The allowances and expenses authorized by this resolution shall not be received
74 by any member of the commission for more than five days unless additional days are
75 authorized. Funds necessary to carry out the provisions of this resolution shall come
76 from funds appropriated to the Senate and the House of Representatives; except that
77 funds for the reimbursement of the expenses of state officials, other than legislative
78 members, and state employees shall come from funds appropriated to or otherwise
79 available to their respective agencies.

80 (6) **Report.**

81 (A) In the event the commission adopts any specific findings or recommendations that
82 include suggestions for proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file a report of the
83 same prior to the date of abolition specified in this resolution, subject to
84 subparagraph (C) of this paragraph.

85 (B) In the event the commission adopts a report that does not include suggestions for
86 proposed legislation, the cochairpersons shall file the report, subject to subparagraph
87 (C) of this paragraph.

88 (C) No report shall be filed unless the same has been approved prior to the date of
89 abolition specified in this resolution by majority vote of a quorum of the
90 commission. A report so approved shall be signed by the cochairpersons of the
91 commission and filed with the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of
92 Representatives.

93 (D) In the absence of an approved report, the cochairpersons may file with the
94 Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Representatives a copy of the
95 minutes of the meetings of the commission in lieu thereof.

96 (7) **Abolishment.** The commission shall submit the report and proposal required by
97 paragraph (6) not later than December 31, 2019, at which time such proposal shall be
98 published and the commission shall stand abolished.